

Forth Valley & West Lothian Education Scotland Team Update

WELCOME!

Welcome to the FVWL Education Scotland Team Update. In this update we will share with you the work we have been doing alongside our partners across the FVWL Regional Improvement Collaborative (RIC) highlighting one or two particular actions we have been engaged in and drawing upon our national roles and engagements. We hope this will help you to find out more about the ES work and the partnership work we're involved in with our colleagues across the FVWL RIC and within local authorities. We would encourage you to contact our staff to find out more about the work and we can also signpost you to other work that is happening in the RIC area.

Our FVWL Education Scotland Team involves staff with a range of expertise, combining their national remits with support for the FVWL RIC.

The vision for the Forth Valley and West Lothian Improvement Collaborative is founded in the twin aims of the National Improvement Framework for Education in Scotland:

Excellence through raising attainment: ensuring that every child achieves the highest standards in literacy and numeracy, set out within Curriculum for excellence levels, and the right range of skills, qualifications and achievements to allow them to succeed; and

Achieving equity: ensuring every child has the same opportunity to succeed, with a particular focus on closing the poverty-related attainment gap.

See the FVWL Glow Blog at:
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/fvwlic/>



THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHT

IMPROVING GENDER BALANCE IN EDUCATION



- What images do you have when you think of a builder? A hairdresser? An Army Sergeant?
- What messages does your class seating imply around gender?
- Is the curriculum in your school equally accessible for girls and boys?

Fiona Shaw, Improving Gender Balance and Equalities Development Officer, has been out and about providing a range of workshops for colleagues exploring how we might address issues around Improving Gender Balance in Education (IGBE) unconscious bias and challenge gender stereotypes. Fiona's IGBE meet staff workshop starts with a game of human bingo which illustrates how our unconscious biases can lead to outcomes for learners which are different according to gender. Following this, Fiona shares some thought-provoking research illustrating just how far society still has to travel to ensure that all learners have genuine equality of opportunity regardless of their gender. Gender Equity becomes a reality for all learners.

As well as this stimulating workshop, Fiona has been in schools working with staff to explore gender issues; work which ranges from considering how unconscious biases might find their way into everything from curriculum architecture to who is asked questions in class and who answers.

IGBE officers are running a National pilot for their blended learning course starting 22-01-20 in Stirling.

The course addresses gender gaps in self-efficacy, and participation across all curricular areas, using research and practitioner reflection around inclusive learning and teaching. The course runs from Jan - Dec 2020 with limited spaces available. Sign up [here](#) if interested.

Separately, joint events involving Skills Development Scotland and Education Scotland will be held in February and March exploring work-based learning opportunities and possible gender barriers: See future Updates for details.

To find out more about Fiona's work contact her at:
fiona.shaw@educationscotland.gov.scot

Does learning in your school challenge gender stereotypes?



THE MONTH AHEAD

In January 2020 other work ES FVWL Team will be carrying out in collaboration with our partners across the RIC will include:

- Preparing for National Digital Learning Week, 2020
- Supporting national Improvement days for CLD, Parental Engagement & family Learning
- Supporting Clackmannanshire Council with First Level Numeracy
- Supporting RIC groups with Literacy development
- Supporting on-going QAMSO training
- Planning next year's CLPL programme with CLPL Leads across the RIC
- Running a RAISE training day
- Providing IGBE CLPL for Falkirk Probationer teachers
- Supporting Clackmannanshire STEM Strategy Group
- Providing CLPL around assessment & moderation for WL RMPS staff

'...in a country as prosperous as Scotland, no child should have their chances limited by poverty'

Source: John Swinney, MSP: Deputy First Minister & Cabinet Secretary for Education & Skills

See also the Scottish Attainment Challenge Evaluation Framework at SAC Evaluation resource: <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/self-evaluation/scottish-attainment-challenge-self-evaluation-resource-draft/>

SEEKING SUPPORT?

If you're looking for some support from the FVWL Education Scotland Team, here's what you do:

- Make contact with your own local authority officers to discuss your requirements and indicate which of our team members is likely to be the best match for your request.
- At the same time you can contact one of the ES team to discuss your requirements who will be able to advise how to take this forward
- Ask your local authority contact to make a more formal request for support
- Start working together to build improvement

OTHER NEWS

ATTAINMENT ADVISORS & NIF OFFICER

Jackie Ballantyne, has had a series of Scottish Attainment Challenge Focus Meetings across West Lothian, continuing to support colleagues with PEF projects.

Kit Gilbert has continued his work with the RIC using Insight data to explore the poverty related attainment gap.

Jacqui Ward has been working with a range of schools around training for data champions.

Trish Leeson has been working alongside schools and local authority officers in Clackmannanshire around the Attainment Challenge.

Tommy Lennox has been drawing upon his experience of delivering National Moderation Events to support colleagues across the RIC with assessment & moderation.

LITERACY, NUMERACY, HEALTH & WELLBEING

Helen Fairlie

Helen Fairlie has been working with RIC and local authority leads to plan support for literacy.

Maria Docherty has been supporting the RIC numeracy leads and numeracy hub champions, and has attended sessions offered by the numeracy academy.

EARLY LEARNING, CHILDCARE & PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

Beverley Ferguson has provided CLPL events around parental engagement.

CURRICULUM, STEM, CLPL, CLD & DIGITAL LEARNING

Jim Fanning has been gathering information relating to online/virtual approaches to CLPL. A paper will be presented to the RIC to support a FVWL approach to online CLPL.

Stephanie Peat continues to provide a range of CLPL from the suite of events offered by Education Scotland's PLL team.

Mairi Thomson has worked alongside Stirling colleagues in supporting STEM subjects.

Lynne Robertson continues to provide targeted support for schools across the social subjects.

Joe Walker has been working closely with Falkirk Council to support progression pathways across Primary RME.